

**U.S. District Court**  
**District of Columbia (Washington, DC)**  
**CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:16-cv-02046-TSC**

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Assigned to: Judge Tanya S. Chutkan

Case: 1:18-cv-01979-TSC

Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

**Plaintiff**

**JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.**

Date Filed: 10/13/2016

Jury Demand: None

Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of

Information Act

Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

represented by **Michael Bekesha**  
JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.  
425 Third Street, SW  
Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20024  
(202) 646-5172  
Fax: (202) 646-5199  
Email: [mbekesha@judicialwatch.org](mailto:mbekesha@judicialwatch.org)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

V.

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

represented by **Cesar A. Lopez-Morales**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch  
1100 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20530  
(202) 305-8550  
Fax: (202) 616-8460  
Email: [cesar.a.lopez-morales@usdoj.gov](mailto:cesar.a.lopez-morales@usdoj.gov)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
10/13/2016	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ( Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-4707475) filed by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>2</u> Summons U.S. Attorney for D.C., # <u>3</u> Summons U.S. Attorney General, # <u>4</u> Summons Dept. of Justice)(Bekesha, Michael) (Entered: 10/13/2016)
10/13/2016	<u>2</u>	LCvR 7.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. (Bekesha, Michael) (Entered: 10/13/2016)
10/13/2016		Case Assigned to Judge Tanya S. Chutkan. (md) (Entered: 10/14/2016)
10/14/2016	<u>3</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Notice of Consent) (md) (Main Document 3 replaced on 10/14/2016) (zmd). (Entered: 10/14/2016)
10/21/2016	<u>4</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 10/21/2016. ( Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 11/20/2016.), RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 10/17/2016., RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE served on 10/17/2016 (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration of Cristina Rotaru)(Bekesha, Michael) Modified on 10/24/2016 (znmw). (Entered: 10/21/2016)

11/15/2016	<u>5</u>	Unopposed MOTION for Extension of Time to File Answer re <u>1</u> Complaint, by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Lopez-Morales, Cesar) (Entered: 11/15/2016)
11/16/2016		MINUTE ORDER: Granting <u>5</u> Motion for Extension of Time to Answer. Defendant shall answer or otherwise respond to the complaint by December 7, 2016. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 11/16/16. (DJS) (Entered: 11/16/2016)
11/17/2016		Set/Reset Deadlines: Answer due by 12/7/2016. (tth) (Entered: 11/17/2016)
12/07/2016	<u>6</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.(Lopez-Morales, Cesar) (Entered: 12/07/2016)
12/07/2016		MINUTE ORDER: Before the Court in this FOIA case are a complaint and an answer. The requirements of LCvR 16.3 and Rule 26(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil procedure appear to be inapplicable. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the parties shall meet and confer and propose a schedule for proceeding in this matter. The schedule shall address the status of Plaintiff's FOIA request, the anticipated number of documents responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request, the anticipated date(s) for release of the documents requested by Plaintiff, whether a motion for an Open America stay is likely in this case, whether a Vaughn index will be required in this case, whether and when either party anticipates filing a dispositive motion, and any other pertinent issues. The parties shall file a joint status report that addresses these issues and that contains a proposed schedule and order not later than 1/6/17. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 12/7/16. (DJS) (Entered: 12/07/2016)
12/08/2016		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 1/6/2017 (zsm) (Entered: 12/08/2016)
01/06/2017	<u>7</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Lopez-Morales, Cesar) (Entered: 01/06/2017)
01/09/2017		MINUTE ORDER: In light of the joint status report filed on 1/6/2017, a status conference is hereby set for Tuesday, 1/17/2017, at 10:00 A.M. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 1/9/2017. (lctsc3) (Entered: 01/09/2017)
01/12/2017		Set/Reset Hearings: Status Conference set for 1/17/2017 at 10:00 AM in Courtroom 2 before Judge Tanya S. Chutkan. (tb) (Entered: 01/12/2017)
01/17/2017		Minute Entry: Status Conference held on 1/17/2017 before Judge Tanya S. Chutkan: Parties will file a status report 90 days from today's hearing. Status Conference set for 4/25/2017 at 09:30 AM in Courtroom 2 before Judge Tanya S. Chutkan. (Court Reporter Bryan Wayne) (tb) (Entered: 01/17/2017)
01/17/2017		MINUTE ORDER: Consistent with the court's ruling from the bench at the 1/17/17 Status Conference, the parties shall file a joint status report and proposed order by 4/17/17. Status Conference set for 4/25/2017 at 09:30 AM. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 1/17/17. (DJS) (Entered: 01/17/2017)
01/18/2017		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 4/17/2017. (tb) (Entered: 01/18/2017)
04/17/2017	<u>8</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Lopez-Morales, Cesar) (Entered: 04/17/2017)
04/19/2017		MINUTE ORDER: In light of the parties' Joint Status Report filed on 4/17/17, as there do not appear to be any issues with production requiring the court's attention, the status set for 4/25/17 is hereby vacated. Parties shall file a Joint Status Report and proposed order on or before July 17, 2017 and the court will determine at that time if a status conference is necessary. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 4/19/2017. (lctsc3) (Entered: 04/19/2017)
04/20/2017		Set/Reset Deadlines: Proposed Order and Joint Status Report due by 7/17/2017. (tb) (Entered: 04/20/2017)
07/17/2017	<u>9</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Lopez-Morales, Cesar) (Entered: 07/17/2017)
07/19/2017		MINUTE ORDER: Having considered the parties' Joint Status Report <u>9</u> , it is hereby ordered that the parties shall file another Joint Status Report by October 16, 2017. The parties are reminded that their report shall contain a proposed order. Signed by Judge

		Tanya S. Chutkan on 7/19/17. (DJS) (Entered: 07/19/2017)
07/21/2017		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 10/16/2017. (tb) (Entered: 07/21/2017)
10/16/2017	<u>10</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Lopez–Morales, Cesar) (Entered: 10/16/2017)
10/16/2017		MINUTE ORDER: Having considered the parties' Joint Status Report <u>10</u> , it is hereby ordered that the parties shall file another joint report by January 15, 2018 and every 90 days thereafter. To the extent the status report contains a proposed briefing schedule, the parties shall also submit a proposed order. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 10/16/17. (DJS) (Entered: 10/16/2017)
10/17/2017		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 1/15/2018. (tb) (Entered: 10/17/2017)
01/15/2018	<u>11</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Lopez–Morales, Cesar) (Entered: 01/15/2018)
04/16/2018	<u>12</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit)(Lopez–Morales, Cesar) (Entered: 04/16/2018)
05/04/2018	<u>13</u>	Interim STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Lopez–Morales, Cesar) (Entered: 05/04/2018)
07/16/2018	<u>14</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Lopez–Morales, Cesar) (Entered: 07/16/2018)
07/22/2018	<u>15</u>	TRANSCRIPT OF 1/17/17 STATUS HEARING before Judge Tanya S. Chutkan, held on January 17, 2017; Page Numbers: 1–25. Date of Issuance: July 22, 2018. Court Reporter: Bryan A. Wayne. Transcripts may be ordered by submitting Transcript Order Form at www.dcd.uscourts.gov. For the first 90 days after this filing date, the transcript may be viewed at the courthouse at a public terminal or purchased from the court reporter referenced above. After 90 days, the transcript may be accessed via PACER. Other transcript formats, (PDF, condensed, CD or ASCII) may be purchased from the court reporter. <b>NOTICE RE REDACTION OF TRANSCRIPTS:</b> The parties have twenty–one days to file with the court and the court reporter any request to redact personal identifiers from this transcript. If no such requests are filed, the transcript will be made available to the public via PACER without redaction after 90 days. The policy, which includes the five personal identifiers specifically covered, is located on our website at www.dcd.uscourts.gov. Redaction Request due 8/12/2018. Redacted Transcript Deadline set for 8/22/2018. Release of Transcript Restriction set for 10/20/2018.(Wayne, Bryan) (Entered: 07/22/2018)
09/30/2018	<u>16</u>	NOTICE of Change of Address by Cesar A. Lopez–Morales (Lopez–Morales, Cesar) (Entered: 09/30/2018)
10/09/2018	<u>17</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Lopez–Morales, Cesar) (Entered: 10/09/2018)
12/27/2018	<u>18</u>	Consent MOTION to Stay <i>FOIA Production and Joint Status Report Deadlines In Light of Lapse of Appropriations</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Lopez–Morales, Cesar) (Entered: 12/27/2018)
01/01/2019		MINUTE ORDER: Granting <u>18</u> Motion to Stay. All deadlines are hereby STAYED. Defendant's counsel shall notify the Court as soon as Congress has appropriated funds for the Department of Justice, and Department of Justice attorneys are permitted to resume their usual civil litigation functions. It is further ordered, that all current deadlines for the parties shall be extended commensurate with the duration of the lapse in appropriations. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 1/1/19. (DJS) (Entered: 01/01/2019)
01/29/2019	<u>19</u>	NOTICE of <i>Restoration of Appropriations</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE re Order on Motion to Stay, (Lopez–Morales, Cesar) (Entered: 01/29/2019)
02/11/2019	<u>20</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Lopez–Morales, Cesar) (Entered: 02/11/2019)